was no bank in the country, no commercial speculation, no investment, so safe, so sure, so profitable, as that in which even borrowed capital may be engaged by investing it under the ground of your own soil." There is no doubt, under good management, the return for capital embarked will be ample, and secure the support of permanent investors—a society of a speculative character being what the promoters most strongly desire to avoid.

In two pamphlets published by J. H. Charnock, Esq., a member of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, the subject is most ably discussed, and the objects of the association clearly pointed out; these latter are—1. To provide the requisite amount of money for either owner or occupier, or the two jointly, to thoroughly drain their land, they repaying the same with interest, by half-yearly instalments, during a certain period to be fixed, either at a rate per cent. or a charge per acre, to be determined by competent parties, in proportion to the benefit the land has obtained from the operation of the association; 2. To make tiles or other articles for the purposes of drainage, on the most approved plan, and in the cheapest and most approved localities, to enable them to be supplied at the lowest price; and 3. To take on suitable leases any land considered worth the operation, thoroughly drain it, and relet it. In the discussion of the subject, the author shews, that as the increase of produce—at the most, three crops—will pay for the cost of perfect drainage, it follows that in three years there would, by this system, be put into the occupier's pocket the total sum which, under other circumstances, he would have to disburse during, perhaps, fifteen years—thus supplying him with extra capital; and, as this must tend to give a large increase of employment in the whole of the agricultural districts, it will improve the moral and social condition of the labourer, render him contented, induce others to follow his example, feel that his condition is not uncared for by his employers—and render the advantages which we possess, beyond all other countries, in capital, and its practically scientific application, subservient to the general good of the community.

NATURE THE ARCHITECT OF SOCIETY.—Human society is not like a piece of mechanism which may be safely taken to pieces, and put together by the hands of an ordinary artist. It is the work of nature, and not of man; and has received, from the hands of its author, an organisation that cannot be destroyed without danger to its existence, and certain properties and powers that cannot be altered or suspended by those who may have been entrusted with its management. By studying these properties, and directing these powers, it may be modified and altered to a considerable extent. But they may be allowed to develope themselves by their internal energy, and to familiarize themselves with their new channel of exertion. A child cannot be stretched out by engines to the stature of a man, nor a man compelled, in a morning, to excel in all the exercises of an athlete. Those into whose hands the destines of a great nation are committed, should bestow on its reformation at least as much patient observance and as much tender precaution as are displayed by a skilful gardener in his treatment of a sickly plant. He props up those branches that are weak or overloaded, and gradually prunes and reduces those that are too luxuriant; he cuts away what is absolutely rotten and distempered; he stirs the earth about the root, and sprinkles it with water, and waits for the coming spring: he trains the young branches to the right hand or to the left; and leads it, by a gradual and spontaneous progress, to expand or exalt itself, season after season, in the direction which he had previously determined; and thus, in the course of a few summers, he brings it, without injury or compulsion, into that form and proportion which could not with safety have been imposed upon it in a shorter time. The reformers of France applied no such gentle solicitations, and could not wait for the effects of any such preparatory measures, or voluntary developments. They forcibly broke over its lofty boughs, and endeavoured to straighten its crooked joints by violence: they tortured it into symmetry in vain, and shed its life blood on the earth, in the middle of its scattered branches.—*Lord Jeffrey.*

DESCRIPTION OF CHESTER.

THIS is not only the city of singular walks, but of singularities of all kinds. A German would notice one in particular in the Cathedral. Here, to his astonishment, he is led to the tomb of one of his German sovereigns, the Emperor Henry IV. The Chester people, who have invented such singular streets and walks, have firmly made up their minds, that this famous German emperor, of whose death we tell quite a different story, tired of the troubles of his own kingdom, came over to Chester. Here the people received him and kept him till his death, then buried him in their Cathedral, and erected a monument to his memory. I told my guide that I very much doubted the truth of his tale. He replied that there were some people in Chester who doubted it: "but," said he, "I have no doubt on the subject, else why should they print it in the books?" This imperial monument is quite different from and more ornamental than the other monuments, and in order that there should be no mistake, the Inscription confirms the popular legend. I can understand how a people, in its tales and legends, can fall into historical errors; but how such a mistake should have come into the daylight of one of the most famous cathedrals, and appear there cut in stone and iron, is incomprehensible. It is known that this unhappy emperor died on the 7th of August, 1106, at Liege, after he had been deprived of the crown by his son, Henry V. Obbert, the Bishop of Liege, at first permitted him to be buried in the Cathedral, but afterwards, as he was excommunicated, he had him dug up, at the command of the papal legatee, and thrown, unINterred, on a little island in the Maas. On this island, so runs runs the tale, a pious monk night and day sang penitential psalms for the Emperor's soul. Henry V. had the body brought to Spiers, where it was buried in St. Mary's Church; but the fanatical Bishop of Spiers would not let it rest there. He removed it from the church, and had it placed in an unconsecrated chapel, where the bones of the unhappy emperor lay five years above ground. Then the bar of excommunication having been removed, he was solemnly interred in the Cathedral. There, as we know, he did not rest, for at the end of the last century but one, when the French laid waste the Palatinate, the bones of the emperor were again scattered. They have, however, been long since restored, and a monument erected over them, which is, however, scarcely so splendid as that which the English have raised to the duplicate of our emperor. There is, however, generally some truth in every legend, and the question therefore arises, what the truth is in this remarkable Chester story. It is possible, 1st, that the emperor, after his dethronement and the ill-treatment he received at the hands of his son, fled from Liege, down the Maas, to England, and that the person who died at Liege was not the emperor: or, 2d, that a stranger and impostor, profiting by the stormy life and obscure death of the emperor, went over to England, and there gained compassion and support by representing himself as the unfortunate sovereign. As neither of these hypothesis can be proved, the question remains, who that Henry IV. was who was honoured in Chester with the title of emperor of Germany, and whence it came that he was confounded with this emperor. Historians have as yet been as little able to solve this question, as to say who was the man with the iron mask.—*Kohl.*

THE HOUSE OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.—In Friday-street, Cheapside, a short time ago, stood the house which was in the occupation of Sir Christopher Wren, the eminent architect, during the erection of St. Paul's Cathedral, and which adjoined the church of St. Matthew, Friday-street. In the course of pulling down the building, which was sold a few days ago, and which is now nearly levelled with the ground; several silver and copper coins were found in the joists of the flooring by some of the workmen. The silver coins were of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, some being in good preservation. The copper coins were of an earlier period. The foundation walls are of extraordinary thickness, a portion of which formed part of the Saracen's Head, which is also taken down.

CHURCH-BUILDING INTELLIGENCE, &c.

Bury St. Edmund's.—A meeting of some of the principal inhabitants of St. Mary's parish in this town, convened by a friendly circular from the rev. incumbent, was held at the vestry of the church on Monday. The rev. gentlemen stated that the repairs of the outer roof had been now completed, and that the condition of the principals, &c., had been throughout ascertained to be fully as bad as Mr. Cottingham had represented those which he had examined. The object of the meeting now was to consider certain alterations and processes of restoration of the interior of this beautiful edifice submitted by the architect, Mr. Cottingham, which were explained by Mr. Eyre. The rev. incumbent stated that the propositions embraced, first, the restoration and cleaning of the roof; secondly, the repair, or rather restoration of the great west window, which was in an absolutely dangerous condition from injury and decay, the stone-work being broken and split in every direction; thirdly, the reparation of the roof of the south aisle, which has been discovered to be in a bad state; fourthly, the removal of the organ gallery within the west porch, the organ to be placed on the ground-floor next the tower, and the vacant space thus obtained so advantageously to the representation of the fair proportions of the building, to be filled up with seats for the poor. It was calculated that about 160 free sittings would be thus obtained. It was also proposed that the pulpit should be placed at the east end of the nave on one side, and the reading-desk on the other. Two very beautiful plans of pulpit and reading-desk drawn by Mr. Cottingham were exhibited, which received general approbation. Reference was made to some proposed and much to be desired repairs and alterations in the chancel, for which also some beautiful plans were submitted. The cost of the whole was estimated at about 1,800*l.* For the above-mentioned restoration and repairs of roof and west window, removal of organ and gallery, and substitution of free sittings, with repair of south aisle, about 1,300*l.* will be required. The rev. incumbent has already received of free-will offerings nearly 900*l.* It was thought, therefore, that these necessary repairs should be proceeded with forthwith, in the confident hope that the additional 500*l.* required will be soon obtained by an appeal to the public. The alterations and repairs of the chancel, together with new pulpit and desk, which would cost about 400*l.* additional, will be contingent upon the subscriptions. Mr. J. H. P. Oakes has undertaken, at a cost, if required, of 250*l.*, to replace the present inappropriate circular window over the east end of the nave, with a new rose window of stained glass, an admirable plan of which has also been made by Mr. Cottingham.

Woolpit Church.—The open roof of this fine ecclesiastical structure has recently undergone complete restoration, and is now finished, with its appropriate niches and figures, in a style which it is hoped will afford an example to be followed in the many structures of Suffolk, where restoration is so much needed. The *tout ensemble* is fine. The clerestory is divided by the roof into ten bays by eleven pairs of principal frames and trusses. These frames are formed of three stories of half arches or spandrils, supporting horizontal timbers or hammer beams. The ends of these beams are finished with the figures of angels. The bays are highly ornamented with star Tudor mouldings. The cornice is charged with figures of angels also, and bosses. The compartments are divided by Tudor mouldings. This work has been completed by Mr. H. Ringham, of Ipswich, whose talent in ecclesiastical carving, though highly appreciated in the locality, is not so extensively known as it deserves to be. In case all our readers may not fully understand the meaning of an "open roof," such roofs being mostly, though not altogether, confined to Suffolk and Norfolk, we add a slight description. An "open roof" is a timber roof, without tie beams, the outward thrust or pressure being counteracted by the skilful arrangement of the internal frame-work, such as the roofs of Westminster Hall, the Hall of Kitham

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